(27)

THE DECLARATION OF THE *BRITTISH* in the North of IRELAND.

BODLEIANA

WITH

Some QUERES of Colonel *Monke*, and the Anſwers of the *Brittiſh* to the QUERES.

ALSO

A LETTER, giving an impartiall Relation of the numbers of Horſe and Foot that reſolve to keep cloſe to what they doe here unanimouſly declare to the world.

Printed in the Year 1648.

83 (27)

SIR,

I Have ſent you the Declaration of the Britiſh Forces in *Ireland*, in the which you may ſee their Intentions concerning themſelves, and in relation to the Kings Majeſty, the Covenant, and Religion, with the Queres of Col: *Monke*, and the Britiſh Anſwers to the ſame. The Britiſh Forces are in number, which doe owne this Declaration, Twelve thouſand Foot, and three thouſand Horſe, and yet ſtill doe daily increaſe. And it is very believing, that divers more very conſiderable parties will joyne with them.

For the newes that concernes *London-Derry*, and the other parts of this Kingdom, I refer you to the other Letters which will come with this to your hands, and from ſuch perſons as can give you a better account of the buſineſſe and proceedings here then I can at this time. So I reſt,

May 16. 1649.

Your aſſured friend and ſervant,

R. W.

Queries propounded by Col. MONK, *to the Counſell of War, at* BELFAST, *the 9 of* APRIL 1649.

I Deſire to know what cauſe You have to diſtruſt Me, for my faithfulneſſe to the good Cauſe You ſtand for?

2. Why do You grow upon Me daily by new Propoſitions, and are not ſatisfied with theſe which the Preſbytery at firſt propounded, but aſſume an unlimited power to Your ſelves?

3. Why doe you declare againſt that prevalent Party in *England* without Order, or advice from *England*; and thereby do in all appearance pre-judge the good Party oppreſſed there, by declaring your ſelves ſooner, then they think it ſeaſonable? And yet to ſuffer Malignants in your Quarters contrary to Order.

4. I deſire to know (in regard of our dependance upon *England*) whom it is We ſhall ſerve for the preſent?

Anſwers given by the Counſell of War, to Colonell MONK, *his foremention'd Queries.*

TO the firſt nothing can be inferred from our Actions, implying diſtruſt of you, or your faithfulneſſe to the good Cauſe; ſince we are willing, and deſirous yet to truſt you.

To the 2. It cannot be thought ſtrange, that we have other Propoſitions, (beſides the Presbyteries) in regard of our different relation; neither doe we conceive, that adding to our juſt deſire upon new Emergence, can be called an aſſumed unlimited Power.

3. Albeit, when lawfull Authority is ſuppreſſed, an Order be impoſſible to be obtained, yet as we are Chriſtians, our duties to God, and lawfull Authority ties us to declare againſt the Publick Enemies of our God, ſuch as are now the prevalent Party in *England*, who have overturned Authority, from which we might have expected Orders.

And beſides, the Proteſtation of many Members of both the Houſes of Parliament, the Proteſtation of the Kingdome of *Scotland*, the Repreſentation of the Miniſtery, the Apologeticall Declaration of many thouſand Citizens, in, and about the City of *London*, all againſt the preſent prevalent Courſes of the Sectaries, may be unto us, in place of a ſtrong advice, to joyne with them in declaring againſt them, and diſ-allowing of their proceedings: As alſo for Malignants, you underſtand we conceive, only ſuch who were ingaged againſt *England*; none whereof are by us Publickly owned, and if any be privately ſheltred, when they are diſcovered, we ſhall take ſuch courſe with them, as ſhall be incumbent unto us.

To the 4. As we have hitherto in relation to *England*, ſerved the King and Parliament thereof, whoſe juſt Power, Rights, and Priviledges we are deeply ſworn to maintain and defend in our ſolemne League and Covenant, ſo we reſolve faithfully, and conſtantly, to ſerve, and adhere unto them, though (for a time) they be violently bereſt of the exerciſe of their juſt and lawfull Power.

Propoſitions preſented to Colonell MONK, *by the Army.*

FIrſt, that he, and all under his Command, ſolemnly ſwear, and ſubſcribe the Solemne League and Covenant.

2. That He, and They, do ſigne the Declaration to be emitted by the Army at their meeting.

3. That he ſhall not obey, or execute any Order that ſhall be ſent unto him, from the new Prevalent power in *England*.

4. That untill it pleaſe God to eſtabliſh a free Parliament in *England*, that He will act nothing wherein the Army is publickly concerned, or diſpoſe of Fortified Garriſons, without the advice, and conſent of a Counſell of War, firſt called by him, conſiſting at leaſt of two Officers out of each Regiment, whereof one a Field Officer, the other, a Captaine choſen by conſent of the Regiment.

5. That He be pleaſed to give out of the Magazine unto each Regiment and Troup, a proportionable quantity of Ammunition, and Armes to be in cuſtody of the Commander in Chief of every ſeverall Regiment, for the which He is to be accomptable. Theſe are the moſt moderate deſires, by aſſenting whereunto we conceive our Religion, and our ſelves can be ſecured: Which being granted, we do firmly oblige our ſelves to obey His Commands.

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The Countries Propositions to Colonell MONK.

FIrst, that nothing be done wherein the Country is concerned, such as the equall, and just distribution of the Quarters, the adding to, and increasing, or diminishing the present standing Forces, or associating with any Part), & other particulars of the like nature, without the consent of a Committee, consisting of equall number of the Army and Country first called, the which is to be called upon any just Complaint.

2. That if We shall be invited by any of the Covenanted Brethren in this Kingdome, for their Defence in maintaining of the Covenant, against the opposes thereof, that the Generall, and this meeting, shall receive them in this association, for mutuall defence, in so farre as may contribute for the ends of the Covenant, and for their preservation in pursuance thereof.

3. That in regard of apparent hazards, and the many Enemies of the Covenant, we desire that the Country may be presently put in a Posture of Defence, and that their Forces shall not be disposed of, without the consent of the Committee above mentioned.

4. That before parting, an equall number of the Army, and Country be chosen for the ordering of the businesse as is aforesaid.

5. That as we have desired a proportionable quantity of Ammunition and Armes may be given to the Army: We do likewise desire, that a competent number of Armes with Ammunition, may be put into the severall Regiments Magazines for their Quarters use upon necessity.

6. Considering, that through the General's declaring against the present prevailing Party in *England*, His proper means may be obstructed: Therfore We shal lay down a course, notwithstanding of the great poverty of the Country, for his subsistance, till means come from *England*.

The Councell of Wars Declaration.

AS We cannot without great Rejoycing and thanksgiving think upon the first blessed vowing of your selves in the Land, by a solemne League and Covenant unto the Lord our God; So We cannot without great sorrow and remorse (We pray God give Us so much as we ought) call to mind the fearfull back-slidings and out-breakings that have been in all manner of Persons, some by not indeavouring to performe what they did seeme truely to intend, others by never intending what the genuine sense of the Oath did oblidge them to per-

forme, which do clearly appear by the great Defection of many from the Covenant, their joyning in the late unlawfull Engagement against *England*, and by the Actions, Discourses, and new Propositions of diverse at this time, contrary to the same: For remedy of all which, that the just might not passe with the unjust, we heartily praise the Lord for giving of his servants of the Ministry, here, the boldnesse to move the renewing, and the rest of his people, the readynes and willingnesse to renew that solemne and sacred vow: and lest after such mercies, We should grow secure, and suffer our selves to fall into our former Errours, especially when so great powers have assembled themselves against the Lord and his Christ. We have thought it necessary, not to rest satisfied with the swearing of the Covenant, which many false Brethren formerly did, but with *Daniel*, who opened his windows towards the East, to witnesse his avouching of the service of God, so by this Declaration do we testifie to the world, that we have sincerely and faithfully without any equivocation sworn the said Oath according to the true and clear meaning of each Article thereof, as well Civill as Ecclesiasticall, so we shall by the strength of God, with our lives and fortunes, maintaine the same against the opposers and Enemies thereof, as well private underminers, as publick opposers; whether *Papists*, *Sectaries*, or *Malignants*, not doubting but their powers may be great; yet the Lord our God, will deliver us from them, or if he doe not, yet we will not serve their gods, nor by any connivance, or politique lukewarmnesse, be any wayes partakers of their iniquities, lest we justly provoke our God to spew us out of his mouth, and suffer us to be swallowed up in their judgements, and having found of how dangerous consequence it is to leave power in the hands of these, as are refusers of the Covenant, or double minded at it, being so far against our Vows therein, made to the Lord of hosts; and such an apt meanes to breed division amongst our selves, and advance the designes of these who wish its and our ruine: We do declare that we will have none in our Army, nor associate our selves with any, but such as shall take and renew this solemne League and Covenant, and particularly, that we shall not receave into publick charge into our Army, nor associat our selves at any time hereafter, with such as have been violent promoters of the late unlawfull engagement against *England*, nor with any who have formerly been known to have been *Malignantly* affected, did goe on upon the same, untill there shall be a publick way agreed upon by King and parliament, for receiving of such upon evidence of their repentance, with the advice of the Church: Neither shall we receave into charge, any whosoever have gone upon the for-

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ther Ingagement, before they have first, not onely given publick signes of repentance to the Church, but also, shall have satisfied the officers of the Army, of their good deserving, and procured a testimoniall from the Presbyteric, of their honest behaviour: nor shall we trust any other notorious *Malignants*; before they have given constant obedience of their resenting former *Malignant* courses, and (if when upon such signes given, they shall be receaved to charge, if they shall yet at any time vent their *Malignancy* by discourse, or otherwise, we shall instantly remove them from their respective charges. And more especially, we shall not associat our selves with the Marquesse of *Ormond*, nor with any of his party, so long as they shall combyne with *Papists*, or other forementioned *Malignants*, and shall not swear and subscribe the solemne League and Covenant, as we have done here; and whereas the Sectarian party in *England* of late, has usurped an illegall power, over both King and Parliament, and are resolving an universall Tolleration of Religion, and the subversion of lawfull Government, by Kings, Lords, and Commons, and have taken upon them to proclaime all adherers, to the foresaid just Government in the person of the present King, to be Rebels and Traitors. All which the said usurped practises they visibly intend to force upon us in this Kingdome, so soone as they can transport their power thither, to be obeyed and received by us, contrary to our sworne solemne League and Covenant: and for this cause, we doe faithfully oblige our selves unanimously with our estates and lives, to resist and oppose any such irregular Power which shall proceed from them, and that he shall maintaine the Government of the Church here, together with the just power of the King and Parliament, in the state, against the opposers thereof. And being confident that these our present intentions, will not want bitter and false aspersions of all sorts, and particularly that by this act we intend to shake off our due obedience to the Crowne of *England*, and desist from prosecuting the service against *Irish* Rebells, wherein we were imployed by King and Parliament; we doe hereby declare, that we shall really demeane our selves as becommeth faithfull and loyall Subjects to the Crown of *England*, and shall at all times give due obedience to the King and free Parliament thereof. And untill it shall please God to establish these according to our solemne League and Covenant, we shall prosecute, by Gods help and assistance, sincerely the Common Enemy, and advance by Gods assistance all the ends thereof. And least by misunderstanding, or carnall reasoning, we might be drawn to any thing contrary to the word of God and our solemne Ingagements, we are resolved to proceed to nothing,

thing, whatsomever in reference to Religion, without advice of Gods Ministers and servants here given to us in the same, but shall be ready according to our power, to prosecute every mean of surety to our Religion, which they shall propose to us according to the word of God, and the Covenant, and that they and our consciences may bear us witnesse of the integrity of our hearts, and that we may with the more confidence, expect the blessing of God upon our proceedings, we shall take care that sin may be suppressed in our Army, all scandalous persons, and disobedient to Church censures, put out of it, and for removing of all jealousies, Quarters may have that upon this change of affaires, they may suffer prejudice; we do hereby assure them, that we shall equally regard their respective standings, as well as our own.

These our resolutions being pondred by any well-affected person, we are confident, will seeme as just, as necessary: It is evident to the world, our Consciences in matters of Religion, Loyalty to our Soveraigne the Lords Anointed, whose Fathers unparallell'd Execution our Soules abhors, and we tremble to name, and whose just Succession, He giving security for maintaining all the Articles and ends of the solemne League and Covenant, before He be admitted to the exercise of His Royall Power, We are resolved to maintain with our Lives and Fortunes, to our duties, the Parliaments of the united Kindomes, our own mutuall Liberties, Lives, and Safeties. With all our solemn Vowes unto the Lord our God, which are likely to be most impiously violated. Neither We hope will any believe We precipitate, when they consider the present power of Sectaries, the secret and open enemies of the Kingdomes, the want of affection of many amongst our selves, and the great opportunity they have by every dayes delayes, to subvert that which we are most obliged to maintain. Lastly, the subscribers do faithfully and solemnly promise, that We do truly intend, and shall zealously prosecute by the assistance of God, with singlenesse of heart, having still Gods Glory and Honour before our eyes, all the severall points of this Declaration; and as We earnestly desire, and obtest all good Christians to joyn with us, and now discharge their duty to God and the King, so we shall not be diverted from maintaining all these who shall faithfully joyn herein, with an unintereſted regard by what means soever, humbly praying the Almighty Lord, to direct us by his Spirit, and witnesse by his power, that he is our strong City and Rock in whom we trust. We the Gentry, and others of the Country, do assent to, and Cordially joyn with the Army in all the points of this Declaration, and shal be equally carefull of their engagement as of our own, and prosecution thereof, shall run all the hazards with them.

FINIS.